

Please add the following new claims 9-25 as follows:

~~12~~<sup>17</sup>. (New) A process for minimizing thermal aggregation of DNase in a liquid solution comprising introducing a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar to a solution comprising DNase, and elevating the temperature of said DNase solution above 37°C temperature.

*Rule 126*  
~~18~~<sup>18</sup>. (New) A process according to claim ~~8~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the temperature of said solution is elevated above about 60°C.

~~19~~<sup>19</sup>. (New) A process according to claim ~~9~~<sup>17</sup>, further comprising reducing the pH of said solution below pH 7.0.

~~20~~<sup>19</sup>. (New) A process according to claim ~~11~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

~~21~~<sup>19</sup>. (New) A process according to claim ~~11~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.

~~22~~<sup>19</sup>. (New) A process according to claim ~~11~~<sup>19</sup>, wherein said solution is at about pH 5.

~~23~~<sup>17</sup>. (New) A process according to claim ~~9~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein said sugar is present in an amount from 50 mg/ml to 200 mg/ml.

<sup>24</sup>  
16. (New) A process according to claim <sup>17</sup>9, wherein said sugar is  $\alpha$ -lactose monohydrate, mannitol, trehalose or sucrose.

<sup>25</sup>  
17. (New) The process according to claim <sup>17</sup>9, further comprising the steps of spray-drying said liquid solution and collecting the spray-dried product as a respirable DNase-containing powder that is therapeutically effective when administered into the lung of an individual.

<sup>26</sup>  
18. (New) A DNase solution comprising DNase and a DNase aggregation-inhibiting amount of sugar wherein said DNase solution is minimally aggregated when said solution is at a temperature greater than 37°C.

<sup>27</sup>  
19. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein the temperature is greater than about 60°C.

<sup>28</sup>  
20. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 18, wherein said solution is further kept at a pH below 7.0.

<sup>29</sup>  
21. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 20, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.5.

<sup>30</sup>  
22. (New) A DNase solution according to claim 20, wherein said solution is at about pH 6.